

PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD'S DECISION

APPELLANT: George Houpis
DOCKET NO.: 05-00694.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-30-205-045

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are George Houpis, the appellant; by attorney Mitchell L. Klein of Schiller, Klein & McElroy, P.C., in Chicago, and the Lake County Board of Review.

The subject property consists of a 40-year-old, one-story style frame dwelling that contains 2,298 square feet of living area. Features of the home include central air-conditioning, two fireplaces, a 529 square foot garage and a full basement with 1,935 square feet of finished area.

Through his attorney, the appellant submitted evidence to the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming unequal treatment in the assessment process as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted a grid analysis of four comparable properties located in the same assessor's assigned neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables consist of one-story style frame dwellings that are 40 years old and range in size from 1,902 to 2,495 square feet of living area. Features of the comparables include central air-conditioning, one or two fireplaces, garages that contain from 484 to 528 square feet of building area and full basements with finished areas that range from 950 to 1,543 square feet. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$106,592 to \$152,222 or from \$56.05 to \$62.87 per square foot of living area. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$148,169 or \$64.47 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's total assessment of \$220,857 was

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Based on the facts and exhibits presented, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds no change in the assessment of the property as established by the Lake County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND:	\$	72,688
IMPR.:	\$	148,169
TOTAL:	\$	220,857

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

PTAB/MRT/9/18/07

disclosed. In support of the subject's improvement assessment, the board of review submitted property record cards and a grid analysis of three comparable properties located on the subject's street. The comparables consist of one-story style frame dwellings that range in age from 33 to 39 years and range in size from 2,005 to 2,328 square feet of living area. Features of the comparables include central air-conditioning, one or two fireplaces, garages that contain from 483 to 552 square feet of building area and full basements with finished areas that contain from 1,210 to 1,898 square feet. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$135,842 to \$145,303 or from \$62.42 to \$67.75 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence the board of review requested the subject's total assessment be confirmed.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal. The Property Tax Appeal Board further finds that a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted. The appellant's argument was unequal treatment in the assessment process. The Illinois Supreme Court has held that taxpayers who object to an assessment on the basis of lack of uniformity bear the burden of proving the disparity of assessment valuations by clear and convincing evidence. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has not overcome this burden.

The Board finds the parties submitted seven comparables for its consideration. All the comparables were one-story frame dwellings like the subject and were similar to it in terms of age, size, features and location. The comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$56.05 to \$67.75 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$64.47 per square foot of living area falls within this range. The Board thus finds the evidence in the record supports the subject's assessment.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill.2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires

is a practical uniformity, which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence.

In conclusion, the Board finds the appellant failed to establish unequal treatment in the assessment process by clear and convincing evidence and the subject property's assessment as established by the board of review is correct.

This is a final administrative decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board are subject to review in the Circuit Court or Appellate Court under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.) and section 16-195 of the Property Tax Code.



Chairman



Member



Member



Member



Member

DISSENTING: _____

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

As Clerk of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board and the keeper of the Records thereof, I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and complete Final Administrative Decision of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board issued this date in the above entitled appeal, now of record in this said office.

Date: September 28, 2007



Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code provides in part:

"If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel after the deadline for filing

complaints with the Board of Review or after adjournment of the session of the Board of Review at which assessments for the subsequent year are being considered, the taxpayer may, within 30 days after the date of written notice of the Property Tax Appeal Board's decision, appeal the assessment for the subsequent year directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board."

In order to comply with the above provision, YOU MUST FILE A PETITION AND EVIDENCE WITH THE PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ENCLOSED DECISION IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

Based upon the issuance of a lowered assessment by the Property Tax Appeal Board, the refund of paid property taxes is the responsibility of your County Treasurer. Please contact that office with any questions you may have regarding the refund of paid property taxes.